



DARRETT ZUSKO (Aug 2009)

THE CRITICS SAY

“displayed flashes of brilliance and power in Rachmaninoff’s arch-romantic *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. Clearly a phenom, the pianist tackled the diabolical showpiece with a facile, fleet technique

Cincinnati Enquirer

The very youthful Darrett Zusko, still only 21, was discovered last Thursday to be perhaps one of the most promising performers of the 21st century, so much so that no one would doubt that he may well become a figure of worldwide prominence.

LA NUEVA ESPANA (Spain)

Not only was there mastery of the hugely difficult keyboard part, with effects on an orchestral scale, but there was a conviction and control to the playing that augur well for Zusko’s future career. The musical ideas came across as directly as if a single melodic line were being shaped, without any distortion or hesitation due to technical difficulties in the pyrotechnics – all in all, a totally musical experience. Bravo!

Peninsula Review (Monterrey, CA)

Zusko brought a clearly sensuous element to the table, making the Scriabin B-major Prelude a calling card. Rachmaninov’s G-major Prelude had those shadings of light that want to transcend Chopin; the B-minor Prelude (“The Return”) had us rapt in a world apart. If the A-minor and E-major Preludes kept the motor running, Balakirev achieved takeoff, and no one who loves flying carpets could keep still.

San Francisco Classical Voice

Zusko sat down at the piano rather casually but, despite his insouciant manner, he gave a brilliant reading of the showy piano part in George Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*

The Toronto Star

Darrett Zusko stunned us with his confident and skilled playing

Welland Tribune

Still in his early twenties and rapidly establishing himself as one of the most exciting young artists of the new generation, Canadian pianist Darrett Zusko continues to garner much critical acclaim wherever he performs. “Clearly a phenom...” raves *The Cincinnati Enquirer*

Still in his early twenties and rapidly establishing himself as one of the most exciting young artists of the new generation, Canadian pianist Darrett Zusko continues to garner much critical acclaim wherever he performs. “Clearly a phenom...” raves *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, *he has been lauded for his “powerful technique and sonority” (La Presse)* and his “exceptional musicality and virtuosity” (*La Nueva España*).

Having been engaged by such noted symphonic ensembles as the Cincinnati, Montréal, and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, in addition to the Ottawa Symphony, Niagara Symphony and Louisiana Philharmonic under the batons of JoAnn Falletta, Victor Feldbrill, Jacques Lacombe, Erich Kunzel and John Morris Russell to name but a few, Mr. Zusko is fast becoming one of Canada’s most sought-after soloists.

Recent and upcoming season highlights include recital tours for Jeunesses Musicales of Canada and under the auspices of Debut Atlantic, appearing as guest artist at major festivals including the Festival of the Sound, MusicFest Vancouver (formerly Festival Vancouver), and the Festival de Lanaudière, as well as collaborating with a number of well-known chamber ensembles including the Allegri and Borealis String Quartets. As an artist frequently heard on CBC Radio and Radio-Canada broadcasts, Mr. Zusko has been featured on such shows as *In Performance*, *Symphony Hall*, *Next!*, and *Music Around Us*. Notable venues he has performed at with orchestra and in recital include Place des Arts, Roy Thomson Hall, Massey Hall, Glenn Gould Studio, Salle Pierre-Mercure, and the **St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts** among many others.

A winner of numerous prestigious awards, Darrett Zusko was a top prizewinner at the Montréal International Musical Competition and the New Orleans International Piano Competition, and also won the first prize and people’s choice award at the Canadian Music Competitions International Stepping Stone, and first prizes at both the Bartók-Kabalevsky-Prokofiev and Oberlin International Piano Competitions.

An enthusiastic supporter of Canadian music, Darrett Zusko’s debut album showcases the solo piano works of the late Torontonian Oskar Morawetz and was released in April 2009 to great critical acclaim on the Centrediscs label. Having also been privileged to work with the well-known composer Harry Somers shortly before his death, Mr. Zusko premiered his final work for solo piano and has recently recorded it for Centrediscs’ ‘A Window on Somers’ series of recordings.

Born in Windsor Ontario in 1984, Darrett Zusko took an interest to the piano at the early age of four and soon began his formal training with Dr. Gregory Butler. Following a number of years of study with renowned pianist Ronald Turini (himself a student of the legendary Vladimir Horowitz), Zusko decided to pursue his training in New York City at the celebrated Juilliard School, where he worked with Julian Martin. He has also studied with Anton Kuerti, Matti Raekallio, Jerome Lowenthal, Marek Jablonski and Leon Fleisher.

Mr. Zusko is a Yamaha Artist.



7 King Street East, Suite 1710 Toronto, Ontario, M5C 3C5

416-595-9555 Fax: 416-595-5317

richard@greatconcerts.com

www.greatconcerts.com

